

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 6, 7 and 9-12 are pending in the present application. Claim 8 has been cancelled and claims 9-12 have been added. Support for new claims 9-12 is found at page 5, lines 13-17, page 10, lines 1-3 and line 17. Support for simultaneously molding and curing is found in the specification and general knowledge of those of ordinary skill in the art. It is generally known that a cured material of an elastomeric material, particularly a rubber, cannot be further molded once cured. As such, Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the above new claims.

Applicants also acknowledge that claims have been added to the application that the Examiner may consider constitute a separate invention. If this should be the case, Applicants provisionally elect the process and product by process claims submitted herewith. However, Applicants respectfully request that prior to issuing a Restriction Requirement, the Examiner contact Kecia Reynolds, Reg. No. 47,021 at the telephone below to discuss the provisional election.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

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Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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ADM/RJR/jao
0020-4621P
Attachments

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(Rev. 12/19/01)

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 8 has been canceled.

Claims 9-12 have been added.